

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 OPR-02
A-01 MCT-01 DHA-02 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 OMB-01
/075 W

-----160711Z 106913 /15

O 160605Z APR 77

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1625

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1815

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN SIND

1. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS MUCH PROTEST ACTIVITY APRIL 15, IT PRODUCED LESS VIOLENCE THAN EXPECTED, EVEN IN HYDERABAD WHICH HAD BEEN REPORTED AS PARTICULARLY TENSE. PROCESSIONS WERE HELD IN HYDERABAD, SUKKUR, KHAIRPUR, MIRPUR KHAS AND SANGHER, AND SCORES OF PROCESSIONS WERE TAKEN OUT IN KARACHI BY PNA PARTY GROUPS, RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS, WOMEN, STUDENTS AND TRADE UNIONISTS. INEVITABLY NORMAL MOVEMENT OF TRAFFIC IN THE CITY WAS INCONVENIENCED, AND SHOPS WERE CLOSED EITHER IN ANTICIPATION OR AS A RESULT OF THE PROCESSIONS, BUT OTHERWISE CONDITONS WERE NORMAL IN MOST LOCALITIES.

2. THE VIOLENCE THAT OCCURRED APRIL 15 WAS ALMOST ENTIRELY CONFINED TO CLASHES BETWEEN PNA AND PPP SUPPORTERS. THE PNA PROCESSIONISTS INDULGED IN THE USUAL SPATE OF ARSON AND STONING AGAINST PPP OFFICES AND BUSINESSES OWNED BY PPP FIGURES, AND IN SEVERAL PLACES THIS LED TO FIGHTS AND EVEN GUNFIRE. PPP FIRING AGAINST A PNA PROCESSION IN LANDHI RESULTED IN AT LEAST ONE AND POSSIBLY THREE DEATHS. NEVERTHELESS THERE WAS NO SIGN OF COORDINATED RETALIATION BY THE
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PPP. ON THE CONTRARY, A SOURCE WITH CONTACTS IN THE SIND CABINET REPORTS THAT AN APRIL 15 MEETING OF PARTY LEADERS DECIDED NOT TO CALL OUT PPP PROCESSIONS AND DEMONSTRATIONS AT THIS TIME. IN CONTRAS
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TO THE PRACTICE OF RECENT DAYS, PNA PROTESTERS APPEAR TO HAVE DESISTED FROM ATTACKS ON BANKS APRIL 15.

3. A NEW STRATEGY ON THE PART OF THE SECURITY FORCES SEEMS TO BE EMERGING. THE POLICE ARE LESS IN EVIDENCE ON THE STREETS. THE LARGER PROTEST PROCESSIONS ARE TYPICALLY ESCORTED BY ARMY OR FSF DETACHMENTS, AND IT IS COMMONLY THESE TWO ELEMENTS THAT APPEAR TO DISPERSE THE TROUBLEMAKERS WHEN A DISTURBANCE BREAKS OUT. THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF THE SECURITY FORCES RESORTING TO GUNFIRE APRIL 15, AND ONLY ONE INSTANCE (IN SUKKUR) OF TEAR GAS BEING USED.

4. THE USUAL BATTERY OF PROTEST PROCESSIONS IS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 16. A NEWLY-ORGANIZED STUDENT GROUP, CALLING ITSELF THE INQILABI ACTION COUNCIL, PLANS THE FIRST PRO-PPP PROCESSION IN A LONG TIME. ITS SUCCESS IS PROBLEMATICAL SINCE MOST STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING THE PNA DEMANDS. MOORE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KARACH01815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770132-0992
Format: TEL
From: KARACHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770450/aaaabrgm.tel
Line Count: 77
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 60e7cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2787440
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY SITUATION IN SIND
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To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/60e7cba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009